

[Report No. 254.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MARCH 3, 1857.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Mr. KNOWLTON, from the Committee of Claims, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To provide for quieting certain land titles in the late disputed territory in the State of Maine, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, au-
4 thorized and required, to pay, out of any money in the treasury
5 not otherwise appropriated, to Laura A. Stebbins, of Bangor,
6 in the State of Maine; Catherine C. Ward, of Roxbury, in
7 the State of Massachusetts; Rufus Mansur, of Houlton, in
8 the State of Maine, and James A. Drew, of Phoenix, in the
9 State of Rhode Island, the sum of thirty-three hundred and
10 fifty-three dollars each, being, in all, the sum of thirteen thou-
11 sand four hundred and twenty-two dollars, in full compensation

12 for three thousand three hundred and fifty-three acres of land,
13 in the half township in the State of Maine, granted by the
14 State of Massachusetts to the late General Eaton, and called
15 the "Eaton Grant," to which said parties lost title by the ope-
16 ration of the fourth article of the treaty of ninth August,
17 eighteen hundred and forty-two, "to settle and define the
18 boundary between the United States and the possessions of her
19 Britannic Majesty in North America:" *Provided*, That the
20 said Laura A. Stebbins, Catherine C. Ward, Rufus Mansur,
21 and James A. Drew, shall execute deeds of release to the
22 parties holding "possessory" or "equitable possessory claims"
23 to the said three thousand three hundred and fifty-three acres
24 of land, or any portion thereof, as described in the reports
25 made to the governor and council of Maine, by Ebenezer
26 Hutchinson and others, commissioners under a resolution
27 passed by the legislature of said State on the twelfth day of
28 April, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and the plan of surveys
29 accompanying said reports, and of record in the land office of
30 said State: *And provided, also*, That it shall appear, to the
31 satisfaction of the land agent of said State of Maine, that such
32 deeds of release do effectually convey a good title to said lands,
33 except so far as said titles have been affected by the operation
34 of the treaty aforesaid: *And provided, further*, That if it shall
35 appear to the said land agent that the aforesaid parties are in-
36 competent to make such deeds of release to the whole of said

37 lands, then they shall be entitled to receive a *pro rata* only of
 38 the compensation provided in this act for so much thereof as
 39 they shall convey as aforesaid.

1 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That the said Secretary
 2 be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to pay, out of
 3 any unappropriated money in the treasury, to Edmund Monroe
 4 and Benjamin Sewall, of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts,
 5 the sum of thirteen thousand five hundred and forty dollars, in
 6 the proportion of three-fourths thereof to the former, and one-
 7 fourth to the latter, in full compensation for three thousand
 8 three hundred and eighty-five acres of land in the western half
 9 of "Plymouth Township," so called, in the State of Maine;
 10 and the sum of six thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight
 11 dollars to Rufus Mansur, of Houlton, Maine, and James A.
 12 Drew, of Phœnix, Rhode Island, in full compensation for six-
 13 teen hundred and ninety-two acres of land in the eastern half
 14 of said township, to which the said parties severally lost title
 15 by the operation of the fourth article of the aforesaid treaty :
 16 *Provided,* That the regulations, restrictions, and provisions
 17 contained in the provisos to the first section of this bill shall
 18 be made to all intents and purposes applicable to this section.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of
 2 the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to pay, out of any
 3 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to Laura
 4 A. Stebbins, of Bangor, Maine, and Catherine C. Ward, of

5 Dorchester, Massachusetts, the sum of six thousand six hun-
6 dred and fifty dollars; and to Edmund Monroe and Benjamin
7 Sewall, of the city of Boston, in Massachusetts, the sum of
8 seven thousand six hundred and thirty-five dollars, in the pro-
9 portion of three-fourths of the same to said Monroe, and one-
10 fourth to said Sewall; and to James A. Drew, of Phœnix,
11 Rhode Island, and Rufus Mansur, of Houlton, Maine, the sum
12 of nine thousand three hundred and twenty-eight dollars; the
13 said several sums being in full compensation, at the rate of one
14 dollar per acre, for timber taken from lands owned by said
15 parties respectively, and located in the Eaton Grant and
16 Plymouth Township, (so called,) in the State of Maine, and
17 within the district recognized as the "disputed territory," and
18 which timber was taken off and lost to the proprietors in con-
19 sequence of the diplomatic arrangement entered into between
20 the United States and Great Britain, in eighteen hundred and
21 thirty-two, by which both parties agreed to abstain from the
22 exercise of jurisdiction in said territory.